

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

**Moderator: Sara Belfry
August 25, 2015
10:00 a.m. CT**

Operator: This is conference number 42401571

Good morning. My name is (Crystal) and I will be your conference operator today. At this time, I would like to welcome everyone to the Statewide Population conference call.

All lines have been placed on mute to prevent any background noise. After the speaker remarks, there will be a question and answer session. If you would like to ask a question during this time, simply press star then the number one on your telephone keypad.

If you would like to withdraw your question, press the pound key.

Thank you. Ms. Sara Belfry, you may begin your conference.

Sara Belfry: Good morning everyone. This is Sara Belfry with the KDHE office communications. I'm going to go ahead and go first today. We have several announcements. First I want to just give you guys an update about some changes in bureau-leadership here at KDHE.

For the Bureau of Health Promotion Brandon Skidmore is the interim director as Paula Clayton is retiring effective September 11.

For the Bureau of Disease, Control and Prevention, Brenda Walker is also retiring and Jennifer VandeVelde has been named the director of that bureau.

Also with our public health accreditation board, we have filed for and got an extension on our public health accreditation we will now be submitting everything by December 31 and if you all have any questions on that, feel free to let us know.

Also just a couple of heads-up for September. September is preparedness month and I know our preparedness program will be sharing a number of activities that will be occurring during September.

September is also Infant Mortality awareness months and we will be putting out a news release at the beginning of the month about our statistics on that. And then also, you'll be hearing a little bit more later on about Septic Smart week, which is in September as well.

For now I will turn over our call to Carman Allen, who is the Preparedness Director.

Carman Allen: Good morning everyone. I just have one item that I would like to address and then there will be other preparedness personnel that will be providing you with some further information on other items. We will be doing some preparedness related activities for Preparedness Month, which will be discussed later. We will be scheduling a regional public health coordinators teleconference in the next couple of weeks. The teleconference will be scheduled to discuss enforcement of work plan deliverable and accounting of preparedness dollars. It will be open to all public health staff that call - I should say all public health administrators to call in but it's going to be specifically for the regional public health coordinators. This was at the request of a regional public health coordinator that we put this together and like I said, we haven't scheduled it yet as a definite date, but it will be within the next couple weeks. So anticipate hearing something from us on that.

Jamie Hemler: Hi, this is Jamie Hemler. Kind of bouncing off of what Sara mentioned about preparedness month, I do know that Michael and Stephen will be having a booth out at the State Fair on September 14. And Fred the Preparedness Dog will also be out there in attendance for part of those activities.

For the Ebola supplemental grant, we currently have 73 counties who are for sure participating. We are waiting on a final decision from two other counties. In talking with the KALHD-KDHE Preparedness Team, it was originally the decision to redirect any unused Ebola funding locally. So if we went in that direction, at a minimum, each participating local health department will stand to gain another \$2,700 dollars in Ebola funds.

We also have heard that many counties think that they will have a hard time spending down those funds and would have to return them to KDHE. So, that is the latest information on PHEP Ebola. We hope to have a final redirection on that soon. Kind of adding to that, a couple of good ideas that Tabetha and I had heard from a public health region on Friday was using Ebola funds on a fit testing machine. Those are pretty pricey and some people do not really have that in abundance even in their region. So that could be considered an allowable expense with Ebola funds. Also, the cost to recalibrate the fit testing machines and possibly technological capabilities to conduct direct active monitoring would be allowable. So, those are some more ideas to consider with your Ebola funding.

As a reminder, the only PPE training that will count for Ebola work plan credit is the KDHE sponsored CST training and the pre-approved TTX OER-320 training. For HPP Ebola, we were last told that the KHERF contract renewal was at the Department of Administration. That renewal is for the base grant and also the Ebola grant. So hopefully, that will be making its way to KHERF soon. KDHE will need to review the community and regional contracts that KHERF intends to send out to ensure that language satisfies KDHE's priorities and federal requirements.

Hospital and public health regional coordinators all received a letter last week explaining our need for greater accountability within the program and also our approval process. These things are not necessarily new, accountability of funds and activities has always been in federal guidelines and requirements, but preparedness had traditionally been a pretty lax program. So while it seems to be a new movement, it really isn't, but we are now doing more in the way of accountability enforcement. If you have any questions regarding this letter please let myself or Carman Allen know.

Another part to this letter and accountability measures is new uniform guidance that came out from the federal level which Tabettha will give an update on here in a bit. A new requirement out of this uniform guidance is a risk assessment. We've been ahead of the curb on the public health side as this is the third year we will be completing risk assessments for health departments. However, due to the new uniform guidance, we will need to revise the public health risk assessments a bit and we will also start to conduct the same process with the hospital side.

The way the current risk assessment process is set up is there are three phases; Phase 1 is increased monitoring and technical assistance; Phase 2 is a 50% reduction in preparedness funding; and in Phase 3 the preparedness contract is terminated by KDHE. The assessment itself is a series of administrative, technical assistance, financial, and work plan questions each of which receive a score in terms of if they are being met or not. If a health department scores low, they are placed in Phase 1 for the next grant year. If they continue to score low in the following grant year, they are placed in Phase 2 and have a funding reduction; and if they continue to score low the year after that, their contract is terminated. We've had some success in using this process but like I said, we will be reviewing the process and making tweaks where needed. With that, I will turn it over to Tabettha to speak more on the uniform guidance.

Tabettha: Hi everybody. OK, so it's called the uniform grant guidance. You may hear it referred to as the super circular and the details can be found at 2 CFR Part 200 but some of the goals of the uniform guidance are to reduce the administrative burden and to strengthen oversight to promote consistent and transparent treatment of cost and to target audit requirements on waste, fraud, and abuse.

There is enhanced language to assist in determining the difference between sub-recipient and contractors. There are clear requirements indicating the information that can be communicated from our program out to our sub recipients. So there will be more information in our contracts regarding our federal funding for us. Our federal funders are holding us more accountable with regard to sub-recipient monitoring.

So that kind of goes to what Jamie was saying about the risk assessment. She indicated that preparedness currently has a risk assessment for public health.

We will be working to update that risk assessment to meet the requirements of the uniform guidance, but we're also going to be working on implementing a similar assessment on the hospital side and we'll be pushing out more education and information as that becomes available.

Sara Belfry: All right. Thank you everyone from the preparedness program for sharing those updates. Next, we're going to go Nicole Fairley with population health.

Nicole Fairley: Good morning everyone. You should've received this flyer, but we wanted to remind you that the candidate accreditation readiness project will hold a summit on September 30 in Salina at the Rolling Hills Zoo. This summit will be an opportunity for local health departments to better understand the accreditation process to develop practice and strategy to become a high-performing health department.

Participants will learn more about the accreditation process, ongoing accreditation working candidate and other requirements for accreditation. Participants will also have the opportunity to gain tips for gathering documentation materials and to hear from others about their strategies for delivering public health services.

All local health departments are invited. Each agency may bring up to four staff. Participants must register for the event by September 11 on KSTRAIN and the course ID number for that is 1048695. For more information, you can contact Katie Mahuron at 316-978-6776 or her email address is K-A-T-I-E-M-A-H-U-R-O-N @ Wichita.edu. So we hope you consider to attending that event.

The other update that I have is some updates on the aid local grant. Thanks again for your patience during this time. We've had several hold-ups with moving to implementation phase, but we hope to be able to do so by the end of this week. Remember within that phase, you will be able to report progress and submit affidavits in catalysts.

In catalyst, these affidavits will be referred to as financial status reports, so you may hear these terms used interchangeably. All programs except for

community-based primary care clinic grants will be using affidavits in catalyst.

So for those who were tracking progress, progress reports will be done in catalyst. A few programs will be having you complete a paper progress report and then uploading those into Catalyst instead of reporting in progress directly in Catalyst. So please check with specific programs for their requirements for reporting progress.

And we are also working on updating the Aid to Local webpage with the most current information for each program about their reporting requirements and you will find that page by going to www.KDHEKS.gov/OLRH/local_health.html and you'll find the link on the left side of the page that says aid to local grants that will have information about the process.

So, if you have any questions specifically, program requirements, then please make sure you contact that program directly and if you have any questions regarding Catalyst, you can reach me at 785-296-0425 or N-F-A-I-R-L-E-Y@kdheks.gov. Thank you.

Sara Belfry: All right. And now we will go to Ann D'Alphonso with Bureau of Water Watershed Management Section to talk little bit about septic mark

ANN: Thank you Sara. Good morning everybody. My name is Ann D'Alphonso and I'm here with David Jones and Rachel Marlatt and again, we are with the Division of Environment, Bureau of Water, Watershed Management Section and we work with the LEPP program or the Local Environmental Protection Program.

This program is in communication with all the sanitarians throughout the state to oversee their sanitation code for every county and those codes include sanitation and also regulations for private water wells and I just wanted to update everybody about an upcoming event. It's called EPA Septic Smart Week. It's September 21st through the 25th.

During this week, a nationwide public education initiative is aimed at informing homeowners living on property served by septic systems about the importance of properly maintaining their septic system. So, as part of this outreach and promotional week, KDHE is sending every county in the state of Kansas promotional packages to their sanitarian, included in the package are copies of homeowner manuals that included information about proper maintenance, dos and don'ts in addition.

And also there's going to be door hangers that are included in these promotional packages that also include information and contact information. We are also going to be posting information on the KDHE website and we're going to also be doing local press releases.

We're asking the local organizations in the local government to also participate in this initiative. So please be on the lookout for this information. If you have any questions, you're more than welcome to give a call. My phone number is area code 785-296-3015. Again, that number is 785-296-3015. Or if you like to learn more about this Septic Smart week, you can visit EPA's website at www.EPA.gov/septicsmart and that will give you more information and also you can print materials from that website. So thank you very much and also if you haven't had the opportunity, please contact your local sanitarian. They've been informed about this initiative and they can also provide you more information. Thank you.

Sara Belfry: All right. Thank you Ann. Next we'll go back to Deb Nichols to talk a little bit about new public health courses on KSTRAIN.

Deb Nichols: Good Morning! There are numerous training events scheduled for this fall that we wanted to bring to your attention today. All of the learning opportunities will be discussed in more detail in the Sept. 1 issue of Public Health Connections. The newsletter will be available next week. You can find the current and past issues of Public Health Connections by using the search field on the right hand side of the KDHE homepage at www.kdheks.gov. If you are not currently receiving an email notice for the newsletter and would like to be added to the distribution list just send a request to bchs@kdheks.gov. You can also find training opportunities through the KS-

TRAIN calendar or using the search field on the right hand side of the homepage.

Upcoming live learning events include:

- a. The Local Public Health Leadership Series – applications are being accepted by the Wichita State University Center for Community Support and Research. The series begins in January. Contact Sonja.armbruster@wichita.edu.
- b. Kansas Accreditation Readiness Project begins September 30 as mentioned by Cristi Cain, Course ID 1048695 on KS-TRAIN.
- c. The Kansas Association of Counties is sponsoring regional workshops on Why Public Health Matters: Disease Surveillance for county commissioners/boards of health, LHD administrators, and other stakeholders. The last 3 workshops are Sept. 2, 3 and 9. Information can be found on the Kansas Association of Counties website at www.kansascounties.org.
- d. The final 3rd Quarter Regional Public Health Meetings will be Sept. 2 and 8. You can register via KS-TRAIN, Course ID# 1058162 or contact Teri Caudle at tcaudle@kdheks.gov.
- e. The Kansas Public Health Associations annual fall conference will be Sept. 16-17 in Manhattan, the Kansas Environmental Health Association fall conference is Sept. 30-Oct. 2 in Topeka, Course ID #1056505 on KS-TRAIN, the Kansas Immunization Conference, Oct. 6-8 in Wichita, The Kansas Built Environment and Outdoors Summit, Oct. 13-15 in Overland Park, and the Infection Prevention and Control: Rapid and Radical Response Conference, Oct. 23 in Independence, MO.
- f. Registration will begin in September for the Kansas Evidenced-Based Public Health Course through KS-TRAIN.

Online courses available include:

The new, Fundamentals of Kansas Public Health Module 1: Overview of the Kansas System, Course ID# 1056214. The course was developed by the Kansas Public Health Workforce Development Coordinating Council with a dozen plus Kansas public health experts providing the content for the course.

CDC's Packaging and Shipping Division 6.2 Materials: What the Laboratorian Should Know for 2015 has totally been re-tooled as requested by learners. Course ID# 1058172. The KDHE companion course is Course ID# 1050287, KHEL: Preparing Clinical specimens Related to Chemical or Biological Exposure Using Evidence Control Measures.

Wichita State University just announced a new Badge Program for the Public Health Workforce. Course work is structured for a student to complete online at their convenience, but in smaller increments. The first badge course to launch is the care of Population Health Professions, Badge 1 for Tier 1 workforce. You can find specific details of the course noted on KS-TRAIN, Course ID # 1059105.

Again all of the information I gave you on this call will be available in the Sept. 1 issue of Public Health Connections. If you have questions please email kstrain@kdheks.gov or call 785-291-3457.

Sara Belfry: Thank you and that's all for our updates. If we want to open it up to any questions and answers, now would be a good time.

Operator: And at this time, if you would like to ask a question, simply press star then the number one on your telephone keypad. Again, that is star one on your telephone keypad to as a question. We'll pause for just a moment to compile the Q&A roster.

Operator: And again that is star one to ask a question. And your first question comes from (Wanda Starber)

(Wanda Starber): Hi, good morning, I was not able to get on the call this morning. Do I normally get a email with the passcode attached to it?

Debbie Nickels: It was on the email that was sent out yesterday and the week before, so if you would like to be on that distribution list, would you send an email to dnickels@kdheks.gov.

(Wanda Starber): Cnickels?

Debbie Nickels: D as in Debbie.

(Wanda Starber): Dnickels. OK. Thank you.

Debbie Nickels: Nickels is in the money.

(Wanda Starber): All right. Thank you.

Debbie Nickels: You're welcome.

Operator: You next question comes from Karen Hag. And Karen, your line is open.

Karen Hag: Yes, I just did not receive the email either. I haven't for the last two months for the conference call.

Sara Belfry: OK if you all have not received the email for the conference call, please email Debbie Nickels and she will make sure that you get on the list for the conference call. Again, her email address is D, as in Debbie, and Nickels, her last name, @kdheks.gov. And we'll make sure to get you on that list.

Karen Hag: OK, well I just spoke to Margaret and she said she's getting me a test email and I didn't get that. So, I don't know what's happening. That's just to let you know.

Sara Belfry: You might want to check your spam folder, but otherwise we can -

Karen Hag: I checked my spam too.

Sara Belfry: OK. Well, uh we will try to get you figured out.

Operator: And again, star one if you will like to ask a question. And you have no further questions from the phone lines.

Sara Belfry: All right. Well thank you very much everyone. The next meeting of the Statewide Population Health call will be September 22nd at 10 a.m. and if you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call or email.

We will be emailing out phone numbers and email addresses that were shared on this call after the call either today or tomorrow.

Thank you very much everyone and have a great month.

Operator: This does conclude today's conference call. Thank you for your participation, you may now disconnect.

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